

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2017

Call to Order: The Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Chief Judge Newell and Judge Vincent Poppiti presented Patricia Blevins with an award for all of her work in the domestic violence community and being a founding member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Introductions: In attendance were the following DVCC members: Chief Judge Michael Newell, (Chair, Family Court), Dana Harrington Conner (Vice-Chair), Linda Carmichael for President Judge Jan Jurden (Superior Court), Attorney General Matthew Denn (DOJ), Chief Defender Brendan O'Neill (ODS), Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS), Commissioner Perry Phelps (DOC), Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF), Dr. Julie Silverstein (Christiana Hospital), Diane Glenn (Dover PD-VS), Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Ariana Langford (Victim Voices Heard), Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen (DSP), Judge Vincent Poppiti (Fox Rothschild). Also in attendance were Ellie Torres (Family Court), Terica Jones (CJC), Claire DeMatteis (FCEP-Family Court), Patricia Blevins (DHSS), Judge Jennifer Ranji (Family Court), Nancy McGee (SAND), Marianne Kenville-Moore (DCADV) and DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, and Pat Kwetkauskie.

Minutes: A motion to approve the March 13, 2017 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

Vote VAWA Implementation Committee Recommendation: Terica Jones (CJC) sought approval from the Council for the DVCC to receive \$47,000.00 for the "Safe & Together Model Training and Assessment Project." This project is seeking a one-time funding to support a needs assessment and evaluation of existing services to determine the current policy, practices and utilization of DV liaisons at the Division of Family Services. This project will be in collaboration with the DSCYF.

Safety Audit – Center for Court Innovations Report: Maureen Monagle updated the Council on the Center for Court Innovation's report which included recommendations for building on the strengths of Delaware's Court system from the stakeholder focus groups. CCI submitted their report on Friday, May 5th. The report was emailed to Council members that afternoon. Maureen highlighted the nine recommendations for the Council to consider. All recommendations are to build on Delaware's strengths in the areas of:

1. Evidence-based practices
2. Clarifying the goals of the Courts
3. Developing a Compliance Calendar
4. Risk Assessments
5. Victims Safety
6. Sanctioning Matrix
7. Enhancing Communication and Collaboration
8. Training
9. Funding for Enhanced Response

The Chair asked for Council members review the report and recommendations. The information will be discussed in more detail at an upcoming strategic planning day for the Council.

Family Court Enhancement Project: Chief Judge Newell reported that Claire DeMatteis is the Project Coordinator of the Family Court Enhancement Project. Chief Judge Newell reminded the Council that the Management Report had over 60 recommendations.

On May 19, 2017, a pilot project will begin taking place in 2 court rooms in New Castle County. In this pilot project, PFA litigants will receive PFA instructions from a Commissioner prior to starting the PFA process. Judge Ostroski (former Family Court Commissioner) will be active as one of the judicial officers providing litigants with information at the start of the PFA process.

Phase 2 of the pilot project involves having two PFA days in New Castle County instead of just one day. Chief Judge Newell also stated that some of the Commissioners have been adding additional details regarding finding of abuse in PFA orders after a hearing. Judge Ranji (Family Court) stated that increasing PFA days will help to make the day feel like less of a cattle call approach on PFA Days. Judge Ranji also stated that Commissioner Southmayd will be developing a core document that can be provided to litigants in custody cases. This form is scheduled to be created by August 2017.

Also, Family Court Mediators had training on May 5, 2017. This training was facilitated by Dana Harrington Conner, Claire DeMatteis and an additional staff member from Widener Law School. This mediator training focused on DV 101 and the dynamics of domestic violence as it relates to custody in Intimate Partner Violence Cases. Training will also be provided to Family Court mediators prior to Phase 2 of the Pilot project.

DVCC Committee Updates:

Treatment: Aimee stated that Barbara Goldberg will have a final report to the DVCC by May 15th.

Elderly & DV: The draft "Elderly and Domestic Violence Report" was provided for the Council's review. The report includes recommendations submitted by the Committee. Pat would like to release the Elderly and DV Committee report to the public in advance of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th. Council members were asked to provide comments to Moe or Pat no later than June 1st. This would allow staff adequate time to release the report by their goal date.

Children & DV: Secretary Manning stated that the Committee is examining the Separating and Divorcing Parents Curriculum while seeking additional information on what domestic violence information is included in the classes. Secretary Manning is seeking a way to reduce barriers for litigants attending the parenting class.

Criminal Justice: Natasha Smith discussed the formation of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team Ad Hoc Advisory Board. This Ad Hoc Advisory Board is working on issues concerning information sharing across agencies, confidentiality, forms and a cost analysis for creation of a successful domestic violence high risk team. The Ad Hoc Advisory Board is currently working on a referral sheet to capture consistent criteria for those who could benefit from a DV High Risk Team. The Ad Hoc Advisory Board is also looking at the V.I.P. Program as a possible source for referrals for DV High Risk Cases.

Natasha also discussed that a meeting was scheduled with the Chair and Executive Director of the Delaware Police Chiefs' Council but had to be cancelled due to the death of Corporal Ballard. The DVCC staff will have a resource table at the upcoming Delaware Police Chiefs' Council Seminar next week.

Medical Committee: Aimee stated that there is currently no chair for the Committee and it is on hold. Judge Poppitti suggested reaching out to a Nurse Practitioner as the chair of this committee.

Public Awareness: Pat discussed expanding the Teen Dating Violence/Healthy Relationship Poster contest to statewide high school students in February 2018.

Training Committee: Ellie stated that the first meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Friday, May 12 at Middletown Police Department. A Save the Date was sent via email statewide for domestic violence training with Dave Adams from EMERGE on September 20, 2017 for Court personnel and September 21, 2017 for stakeholders.

Kent/Sussex Collaborative: Aimee is considering changing the format of this meeting to a quarterly brown bag meeting with a speaker.

Fatal Incident Review Team Report

Natasha Smith provided an overview and highlight of the Fatal Incident Review Team Report. Moving forward, the DVCC is looking to add additional data to the report once the FIRT database is complete. Dr. Silverstein requested that the Delaware data be compared to the National data on domestic violence because Delaware has relatively low numbers compared to other states. In addition, Natasha will check the possibility of tracking active Criminal No-Contact orders in place as well as if the perpetrator was released on bail or on probation at the time of the fatal incident. Dana Harrington Conner stated that even if we are unable to find the data in previous reviews we should be able to track this information moving forward.

Announcements:

The Chair had three announcements. The DVCC will be holding a Strategic Planning Day in November. An email was sent to Council members during the previous week, surveying dates for the week of November 13th. DVCC Staff will be looking to contract with a facilitator. The possible format may be a morning meeting with key-community stakeholders. Afternoon will be for the Council members. More details will follow.

Chief Judge Newell announced that nomination period will be open for the Outstanding Community Service Award. This is annual award given by the DVCC to recognize service and contribution to Delaware's response to DV. Chief Judge Newell stated that Council members should send in nominations to Moe before September 1st. The Council will vote September Quarterly meeting. The award will be presented in October.

The Emerge Training save the date was released. September 20th for Court personnel and September 21st for stakeholders

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 11 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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